

Vermont Soil Health and Payment for Ecosystem Services Working Group (VT PES WG)

Monday, September 30, 2019

Location: St. Leo's Hall; 109 S Main St, Waterbury, VT 05676

10am to 4pm

Homework:

1. Homework – Review Operating Procedures
2. Review PES Definitional Literature (distributed ahead of time)
3. Come prepared to discuss the outcomes you desire from this Work Group

- 10:00** **Welcome, Alyson Eastman, Chair**
- Welcome, why we are, goals of the group, introduction of facilitation
- 10:15** **Introductions of Members, their Organizations, and their goals for this WG**
- Name and organization
 - In 4 to 5 minutes, please describe your goals for a PES program in Vermont, this Working Group role in developing it, and what you want to learn in the next 4 months.
- 11:20** **Review PES Working Group Draft Operating Procedures, Facilitator and the WG**
- Review and Discussion of Operating Procedures, including goals, decision making, expectations for participation
 - Comments will be incorporated into a new draft and approval sought next meeting
- 12:00** **Lunch (*provided*)**
- 12:30** **Review of existing regulatory framework, Ryan Patch, AAFM**
- Brief review of current regulatory requirements and associated programs from state agencies
 - Questions and Discussion
- 1:00** **Considering a Framework for a VT PES Program, Taylor Ricketts, Gund Institute, UVM**
- Presentation of research and findings conducted by Taylor and students
 - Outline of a possible framework to guide the discussions of the WG
 - Questions and Discussion

2:00	Break
2:15	Current Programs for Water Quality, Soil Health, and Ecosystem Services, Vicky Drew, NRCS, Judson Peck, AAFM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of existing programs that have a direct, indirect, or future possibility for PES • Questions and Discussion
2:55	Initial Discussion of Key Issues (15 minutes each question) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What ecosystem services do we want to pay for, at least to start? • Are we paying for action above and beyond the RAPs or some other baseline? • How do we balance efficiency (targeting the biggest bang for the buck) versus equity (ensuring all are treated fairly, regarding size, geography, innovative actions already taken, etc.)?
3:40	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time allotted via how many want to comment, but no less than 2 minutes per person. The WG also takes comments in writing.
3:55	Next Steps and Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey, Scheduling Next Meetings, Homework, Webinars
4:00	Adjourn